

***Remarks***

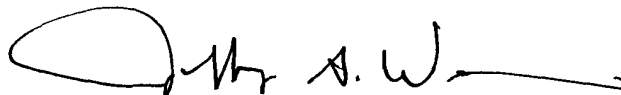
Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 173-233 are pending in the application, with 173 and 224 being the independent claims. Claims 1-172 are sought to be cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. New claims 173-233 are sought to be added. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Preliminary Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey S. Weaver". The signature is stylized with a large, looped initial "J" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jeffrey S. Weaver  
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Date: 9-30-03

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